

Amendments to the Claims

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application.

Listing of Claims:

Please cancel claims 1-19, 41 and 43, without prejudice.

Please amend claim 36, as shown below without prejudice.

1-19. (Cancelled)

20. (Previously Presented) A system for alternate routing of communications in a network, the system comprising:

an origination endpoint associated with an origination enterprise in communication with a packet-switched network;

a destination endpoint associated with a destination enterprise in communication with the packet-switched network, wherein the origination enterprise and the destination enterprise are associated with a private dialing plan (PDP) number;

a call mediator receiving a communication sent from the origination endpoint to the destination endpoint, the communication including the private dialing plan PDP number, the call mediator appending a customer-specific identifier (CSID) to the PDP number, wherein the CSID uniquely identifies either the origination enterprise or the destination enterprise; and

a gatekeeper in the packet-switched network programmed to determine, according to selection criteria, whether to route the communication from the origination endpoint to the destination endpoint using at least a second circuit-switched network, the gatekeeper further programmed to distinguish between the origination enterprise and the destination enterprise based on the CSID.

21. (Original) The system of claim 20, wherein the origination endpoint comprises a VoIP endpoint.

22. (Original) The system of claim 20, wherein the packet-switched network comprises a VoIP network.

23. (Previously Presented) The system of claim 20, wherein the destination endpoint comprises a VoIP endpoint.

24. (Previously Presented) The system of claim 20, wherein the destination endpoint comprises a PSTN endpoint.

25. (Original) The system of claim 20, wherein the gatekeeper comprises an enterprise gatekeeper.

26. (Original) The system of claim 20, wherein the gatekeeper comprises an inbound gatekeeper.

27. (Original) The system of claim 20, wherein the gatekeeper comprises an outbound gatekeeper.

28. (Original) The system of claim 20, wherein the gatekeeper comprises a translation gatekeeper.

29. (Original) The system of claim 20, wherein the selection criteria comprises available bandwidth criteria.

30. (Original) The system of claim 29, wherein the available bandwidth criteria comprises whether a number of call counts processed by an enterprise gatekeeper is above a specified threshold.

31. (Original) The system of claim 20, wherein the selection criteria comprises network resource availability criteria.

32. (Original) The system of claim 31, wherein the network resource availability criteria comprises the availability of a network component.

33. (Original) The system of claim 32, wherein the network component comprises a network endpoint.

34. (Original) The system of claim 33, wherein the gatekeeper determines the availability of the network endpoint by receiving an admission request containing a network address associated with the network endpoint, and determines whether the network address associated with the network endpoint is a member of a set of available network addresses.

35. (Previously Presented) The system of claim 32, wherein the network component comprises a second call mediator associated with the destination endpoint.

36. (Currently Amended) The system of claim 35, wherein the gatekeeper determines the availability of the second call mediator by receiving an admission request containing a network address associated with a network endpoint, and determines whether a third call mediator associated with the network address is a member of a set of available call mediators.

37. (Original) The system of claim 32, wherein the network component comprises a gatekeeper.

38. (Original) The system of claim 32, wherein the network component comprises a gateway.

39. (Original) The system of claim 32, wherein the network component comprises a router.

40. (Original) The system of claim 20, wherein the circuit-switched network comprises the PSTN.

41. (Cancelled)

42. (Previously Presented) The system of claim 20 further comprising a translation gateway that translates a E.164 direct inward dial (DID) number into a number that is routable over a Public Switched Telephone Network (PSTN).

43. (Cancelled)